

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 27, 1898, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Twin Oaks, Friday May 27th., 1898. My dear Alec:

(Again I almost wrote 1828!) I have come to the conclusion that I am like both my father and grandfather. For one thing I think my style is very like theirs, but I am especially like the grandfather for I am procrastinating, irregular, unpunctual — “somewhat hurried in the morning and at times drowsy at night” I have also had something of his earnestness about the welfare of the children. To me also it has been a serious matter to bring them up rightly and I feel now that it is much my fault that Elsie is not better than she is. She has the makings of a noble woman, will be one any way I feel sure, but if I had been different she would not now have the faults of carelessness which mar her now. But I did not mean to start in this way. I meant instead to begin by telling you I was much disappointed that I had not heard from you for several days. Your telegram yesterday will account for my not hearing from you for several days now but your last letter was dated Thursday and you did not go away until Sunday.

Elsie had a letter from Ensign Powell this afternoon and I told her if he were an inch taller, a good protestant, and had money I'd take her down to Norfolk to see him. As however, he is poor, a Catholic and only as tall as she I wont in spite of the fact that I am much attracted by him through his letter. However it is only that of a frank manly light-hearted slangy boy.

I have engaged a tally ho for to Camp Alger to see the tomorrow and Elsie and Charlie will take a party out tomorrow afternoon. President review the troops there. It is an eight mile drive and the tally ho will hold about sixteen. I am almost sorry I proposed it 2 because she is excited tonight. What troubles me is that she gets excited those days Mr. Lindsley

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comes or she expects him. She had arranged to go out riding with him this afternoon but instead received a telephone message from him that his company were called by the President and he had some drilling to do, so he did not come, she has invited him to be of her stage coach party, I hope he wont accept but that is too good luck.

Maria and Charles close our house Monday, it is nice and clean and beautifully done up. I fear it will be awfully hot when you return because it has been so cold almost constantly since you left. We have had three or four hot days since you left but they have been like cases in vast deserts, so few and far between as to make no impression.

The Smithsonian is going to send out an expedition to the Philippines to study it scientifically don't you want to make arrangements with some of it's members to be getting slides for lectures next winter. I think a nice subject for the Monday Afternoon lectures would be Geographical distribution of the great campaigns of the World! Why not— haven't great campaigns affected the history of the world and is there any law in governing their progress from East to West?

Lovingly, Mabel.